

## IACLE comes together for BCLA 2015

IACLE played an especially prominent role in this year's British Contact Lens Association (BCLA) Clinical Conference & Exhibition which followed on from the Third IACLE World Congress



**Come Together** was the Beatles-inspired theme for BCLA 2015. And many IACLE members did just that, travelling on from Manchester to join the three-day conference in Liverpool (29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May).

At a special IACLE session at the conference, President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** announced that a **new edition of the IACLE Contact Lens Course** was in preparation by leading educators worldwide.

The session also marked the **2015 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards** to recognise and reward achievement in contact lens education worldwide, supported by the BCLA and sponsored by CooperVision. The **2015 IACLE Travel Award**, a travel bursary for an IACLE Educator Member who would not otherwise be able to attend the conference, was also presented.



Pictured (left to right) at the ceremony are Travel Award recipient **Dumpati Srikanth** from India, outgoing BCLA President **Susan Bowers**, IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year **Martín Giraldo**, IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year **Professor Monica Chaudhry** and IACLE Europe / Africa – Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year **Helmer Schweizer**.

## International speakers

Dr Naroo (right) introduced a series of speakers who presented research findings from around the world:

- FIACLE **Dr Fabrizio Zeri** looked at the use and perceptions of contact lenses in sport in Italy and showed the prevalence of spherical refractive errors sports participants aged 18-34 years was lower than in the general population.
- **Louis Dias** surveyed perceptions of myopia control interventions in The UK and Hong Kong. A daily disposable lens that provided myopia control was the approach that parents would most welcome for their children.
- IACLE Director of Educational Programs **Nilesh Thite** examined the online trade in eye care products in India. Fewer than half of online contact lens buyers went to an eye care practitioner to learn about lens handling.
- Nilesh presented a study by IACLE Global Education Manager **Lakshmi Shinde** looking at knowledge of contact lenses and care systems among lens wearers in India. About one in four knew their contact lens Rx but awareness of lens and solution brand was high.



## Practical presentations



Elsewhere on the program, IACLE was well represented in the research, education and workshop sessions. Assistant Secretary **Dr Etty Bitton** (Canada) presented a workshop on gonioscopy (left) and also lectured on the differential diagnosis of anterior blepharitis.

FIACLE and BCLA Council member **Dr Christine Purslow** (UK) took part in a live orthokeratology fitting during the opening day session on Myopia Management.

IACLE again took a booth in the accompanying exhibition and met with members, prospective members and our sponsoring companies – Platinum Sponsor **Alcon**, and Silver Sponsors **CooperVision** and **Johnson & Johnson Vision Care** – also the three Partners of BCLA 2015.

Pictured at the **SynergEyes** booth, with proud Donor Sponsor of IACLE listed on their display, are the company's Vice President International Business **Tina Sharp** (left) and Vice President Professional Services **Dr Peg Achenbach** (right).



## Educators honoured

Among many other highlights of the BCLA conference for IACLE:

- BCLA Past President and Clinical Conference Consultant FIACLE **Professor James Wolffsohn** (UK) delivered a keynote address on presbyopia correction (right) and was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the BCLA at the Awards Dinner
- FIACLE **Maria Jesus Gonzalez-Garcia** was among the poster prize winners for her study of 'Dry effect of environmental conditions on tear inflammatory mediator concentration in contact lens wearers'.
- IACLE member **Neil Retallic** from The University of Manchester was one of the new BCLA Fellows awarded during the conference and presented at the Awards Dinner.



IACLE members and Fellows were also involved in some of the special features of this year's BCLA. **Caroline Christie** was among the speakers in the Presbyopia Symposium, offering practical advice on how to achieve success with modern presbyopic contact lenses.

FIACLE Professor **Lyndon Jones** joined IACLE Vice President Professor **Philip Morgan** to present the latest findings on contact lens deposition in a session on 'Getting comfortable with deposits'. The pair also took part in a discussion on corneal staining and comfort, as well as the final presentation of the conference, 'Four men in the pub...the Great Debate: silicone hydrogels versus hydrogels'.

## Summing up

Asked to sum up the event, **Professor Wolffsohn**, said: 'The buzz at the conference was fantastic. Around 1,000 people from across the globe hearing and debating the latest research and its implications for clinical practice today – and for the future – on topics such as myopia control, the correction of presbyopia, minimizing complications, fitting complex corneas and managing dry eyes.

'In particular the retinal risks of even low levels of myopia became very evident, which will radically change the way we need to manage patients in the future. The ease of techniques such as orthokeratology was demonstrated live during the conference, but there is also a range of soft lens designs becoming available. The social program was also not to be missed with the Awards Dinner in the stunning Liverpool Anglican Cathedral a real high-point.'

- For a report on some of the key findings from the conference click [here](#).

